

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 2898 - SB 2981**

March 2, 2012

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Revises the definition of severe child abuse. Punishes an offender for failure to protect a child from severe child abuse in the same manner as if the offender committed the severe child abuse.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

**Assumptions:**

- Under current law, severe child abuse is defined as the knowing exposure of a child or the knowing failure to protect a child from abuse or force that is likely to cause serious bodily injury or death, and the knowing use of force on a child that is likely to cause serious bodily injury or death.
- According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, the revision of the definition of severe child abuse to require either exposure to, or failure to protect a child from, abuse or the knowing use of force on a child rather than requiring both elements will have no significant impact on the caseloads of the state trial and appellate courts.
- No significant fiscal impact to the Department of Correction or to the District Attorneys General Conference (DAGC). Any increase in admissions for the Department or in caseloads for the DAGC can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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